INFINITY

HICKMAN • DEODATO • MARTIN

ISSUE 12

AR MARVEL

PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

EACH INCURSION POINT LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED, OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

BLACK SWAN, YOU JUMPED HERE FROM ANOTHER WORLD...YOU HAD SOME KIND OF DEVICE, AND YOU DESTROYED THE PLANET YOU CAME FROM.

THE TURN OF THE WHEEL BREAKS HOPE, CRUSHES WHAT MAKES US DECENT AND STEALS WHAT HONOR REMAINS.

WE WILL TRY EVERY GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS SOLUTION WE CAN.

AND IF THOSE DON'T WORK?

THEN WE WILL HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO DESTROY A WORLD.

LOOK AT WHAT THE WORLD HAS MADE OF US BOTH. ANTI-MATTER INJECTION SYSTEMS MEANT TO DESTROY WORLDS. IS IT GOING TO BE ENOUGH?

INFINITE WORLDS, T'CHALLA. YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.

WAKANDA CANNOT WIN A WAR WITH ATLANTIS. THE QUEEN--YOUR SISTER--HAS ENEMIES. I WILL OFFER FAVORABLE TERMS, AND IN EXCHANGE I ASK ONLY FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

MAKE YOUR OFFER THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS. IF I CHOOSE TO FIGHT FOR IT IN THE COUNCIL, IT'S BEST IF THE IDEA DOESN'T ORIGINATE WITH ME.

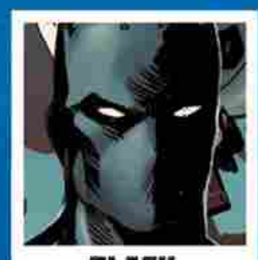
I LIKE THIS PLAN. AND WHAT FOLLOWS SUCH DEVIOUS ACTIONS, BROTHER?

AH! VERY GOOD...

"...I'LL MAKE READY THE BOMB!"

CAST

THE ILLUMINATI


BLACK PANTHER

BEAST

MR. FANTASTIC

IRON MAN

BLACK BOLT

DR. STRANGE

NAMOR

BLACK PANTHER (SHURI)

THE HATUT ZARAZE

THE OORA MILAJE

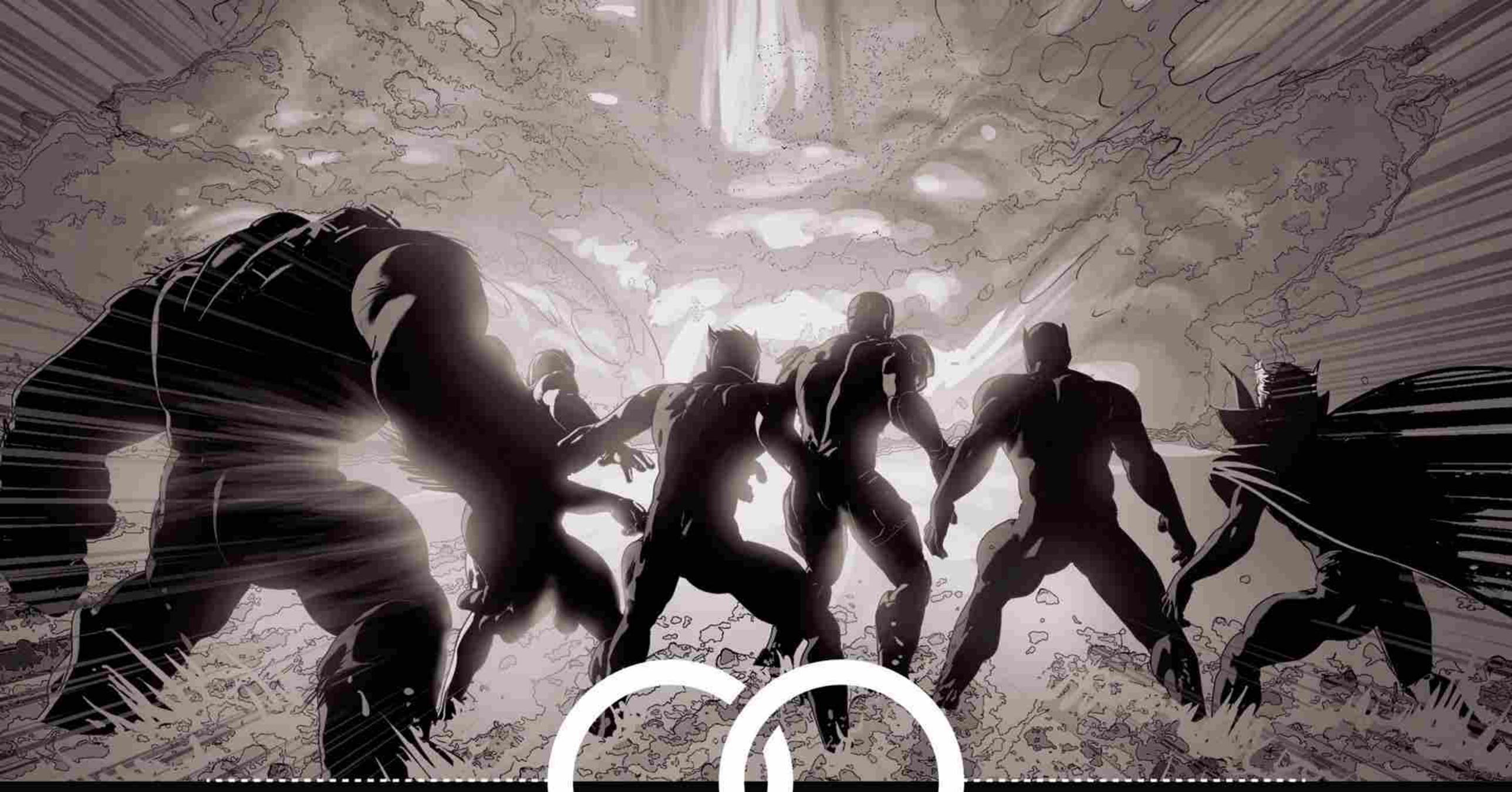
WONG

MAXIMUS

BLACK SWAN

TERRAX

THANOS



“EPILOGUE”

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ENDGAME

WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.

WHERE ARE YOU, BROTHER?

COME OUT.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF I WAS HIDING, SHURI.

I CAN SMELL THE SMOKE FROM THE STILL-BURNING FIRES.

THE GOLDEN CITY NEEDS HER QUEEN...WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE DEAD CITY?

DEAD WAKANDANS.

THE ENERGY BROKE THE WALLS AND POURED INTO THE CAPITAL. THEY MADE PILES FROM THE DEAD BODIES TO STAND ON AND TAUNT US.

AND LOOK HOW THEY FELL.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

WHERE WERE YOU?

HERE. THIS PLACE WAS OVERRUN BY THE ARMIES OF THANOS AS WELL.

I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD.

I THINK HE LIES, MY QUEEN.

I THINK WITHOUT HIS CROWN HE HAS BECOME A COWARD.

MAYBE HE ALWAYS WAS ONE.

YOUR QUEEN RULES WAKANDA, BUT *HERE* I AM KING.

SPEAK AGAIN AT YOUR OWN PERIL.

I'M SORRY, SISTER.

YES, THE WALLS WERE BROKEN, BUT THE CITY STANDS.

WE WILL REBUILD... AGAIN.

T'CHALLA... WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING IN THIS PLACE?

NECROPOLIS... DOES NOT CONCERN YOU, SISTER.

WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS OF NO MATTER TO THE KINGDOM.

LIES.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF--

LIES.

HE LIES, QUEEN SHURI.

HOW DARE YOU?

WE LOVED YOU MORE THAN OUR LIVES, MY KING... BUT NO MORE.

SNAP!

YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WAY.

SNAP!

SNAP!

YOU HAVE LOST YOUR *SOUL*.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE, BROTHER?

WELL? DON'T DO THIS. TELL ME.

NAMOR. WHAT?

THE PRINCE OF ATLANTIS HAS BEEN HERE MANY TIMES SINCE HE ATTACKED OUR CITY.

WHILE WAKANDA HAS BEEN AT WAR WITH ATLANTIS, THE SUB-MARINER HAS BEEN *HERE*...

MANY, MANY TIMES.

THEY CONSORT WITH ONE ANOTHER.

SHURI. PLEASE...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THEN EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

TELL ME WHY.

I...I CANNOT.

WE ARE LEAVING.

WAIT...

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU--

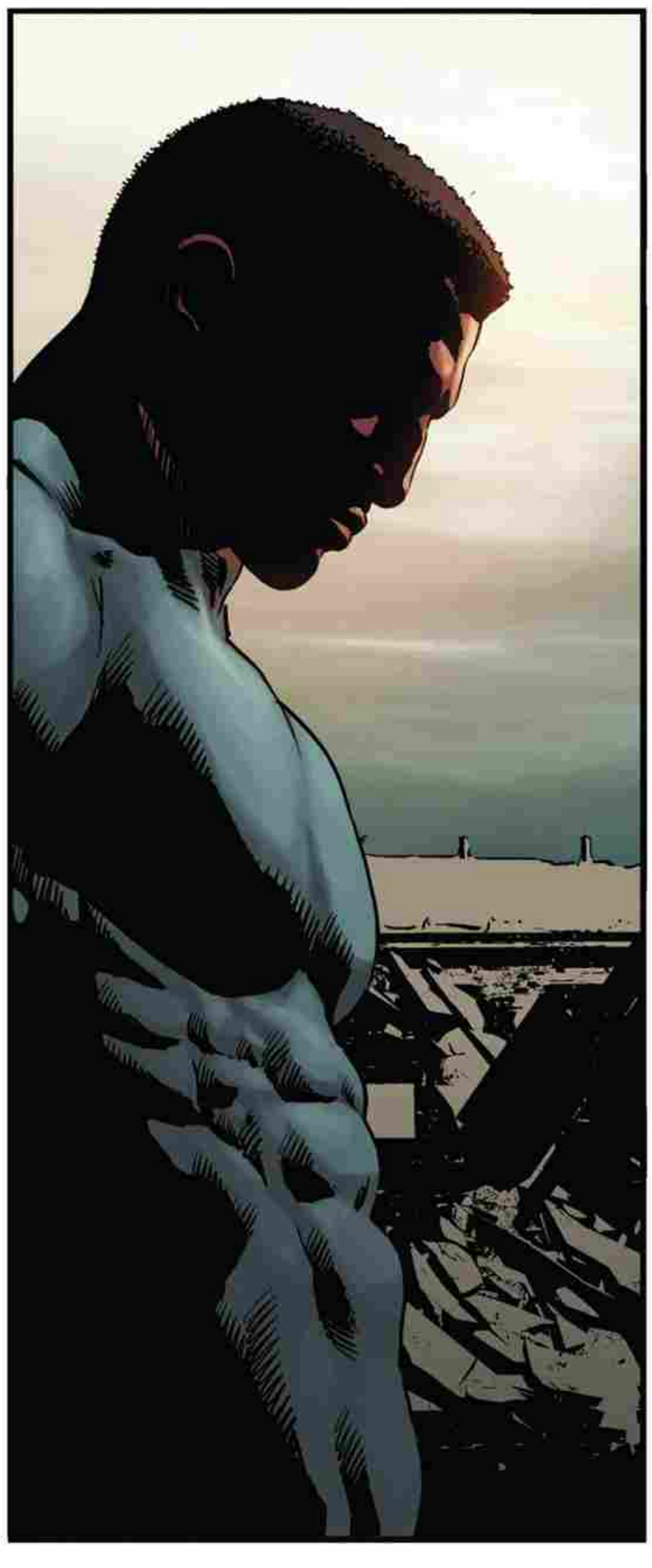
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME.

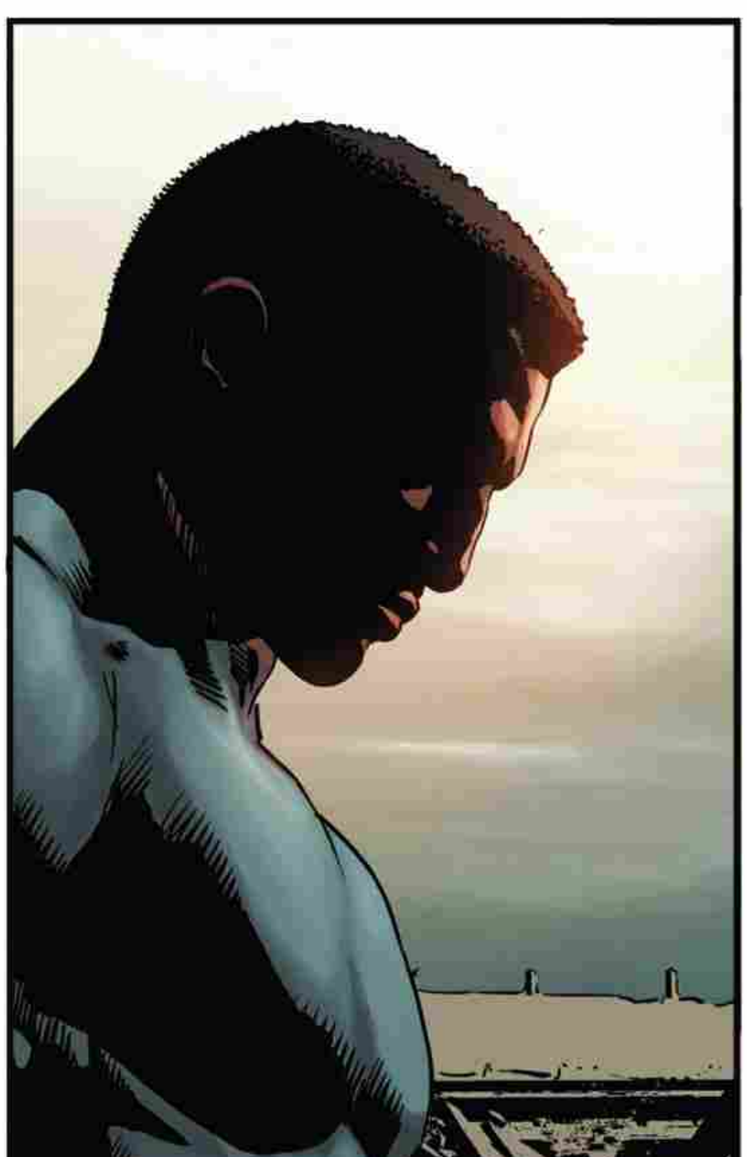
YOU ARE NO LONGER WELCOME INSIDE THE CITY, BROTHER.

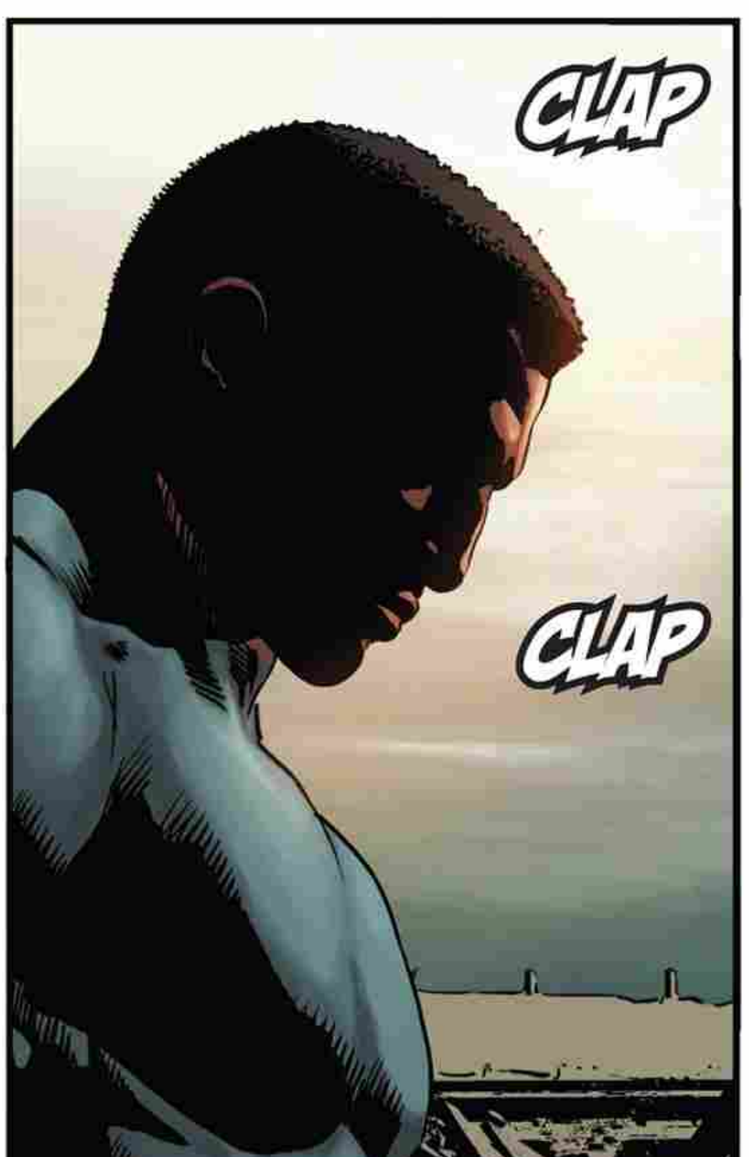
AND THIS IS NOT DONE...BUT THERE ARE FUNERALS I HAVE TO ATTEND. FRIENDS I HAVE TO BURY.

YOU ONCE TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS A HOLY PLACE--THAT THE GODDESS LIVED HERE.
I DID.

YOU'RE A DAMN FOOL, T'CHALLA.



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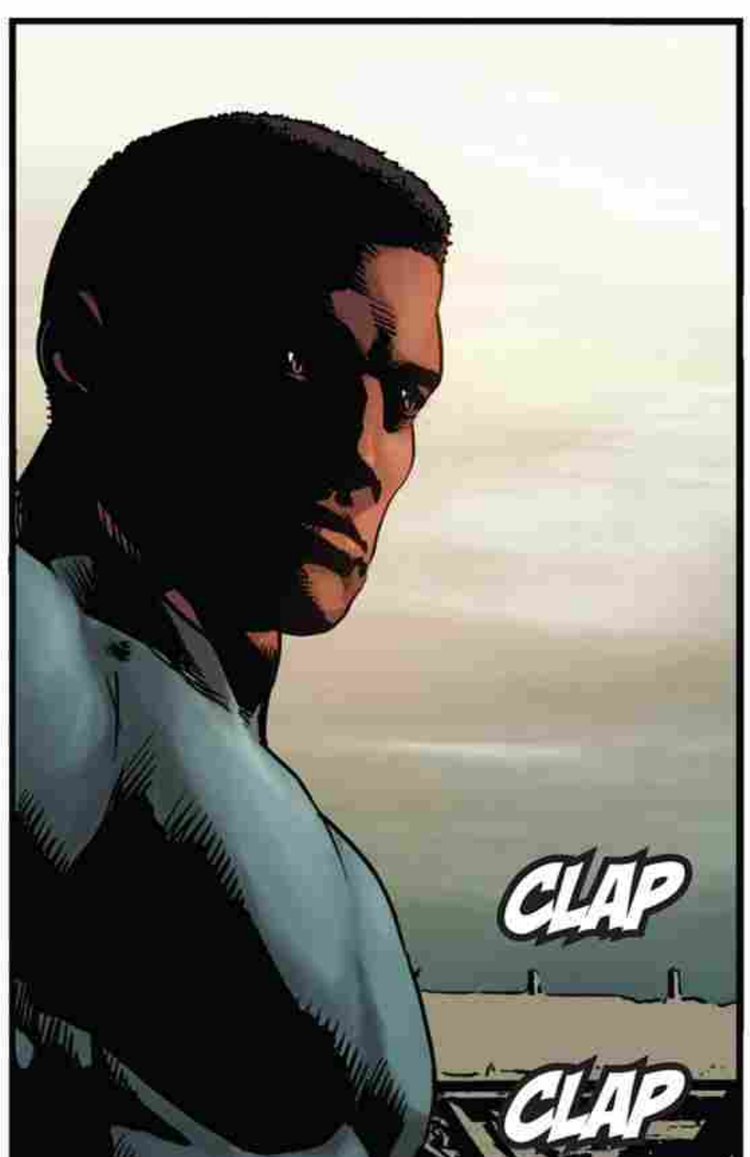
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VERY WELL DONE.

YOU CANNOT BE SO BENT AS TO THINK THIS IS THE TIME TO TAUNT ME, NAMOR.

YOU SIMPLY CANNOT BE THAT STUPID.

OH, I AM NOT TAUNTING YOU, T'CHALLA.

I AM APPLAUDING YOUR BRAVERY.

AND IT IS BRAVERY--I DID NOT KNOW IT MYSELF UNTIL RECENTLY, BUT I AM FULLY CAPABLE OF SEEING IT NOW.

I AM SEEING SO VERY CLEARLY THESE DAYS.

SEE, NOW YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW.

AND WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FACE DEATH HAVING ALREADY LOST EVERYTHING THAT YOU HOLD DEAR.

YOU SPENT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE BUILDING A PERFECT KINGDOM, AND NOW YOU'VE BEEN CAST OUT.

YOU COULD HAVE TOLD HER MANY THINGS--WHAT WE ARE DOING. THE NATURE OF YOU AND I. YOU COULD HAVE SAID, "NAMOR IS HERE NOW...I CAN GIVE HIM TO YOU!"

BUT YOU DID NOT. BECAUSE YOU KNOW...WHAT WE USED TO CALL ***LIFE*** HAS VERY LITTLE WORTH THESE DAYS.

WELCOME TO THE VERY EDGE.

"FOR IT IS THE PERFECT PLACE...

"...FOR KINGS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR KINGDOMS."

IT'S WORSE THAN EXPECTED...

WELL, WORSE THAN MOST EXPECTED-- I WASN'T OPTIMISTIC AT ALL...

WHAT GREAT PHILOSOPHER WAS IT THAT SAID, "PUT A MAN ON A THRONE AND SUDDENLY HE THINKS HE'S A GOD, CAPABLE OF THINGS FAR BEYOND HIS CAPACITY"?

WHO WAS THAT?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT...IT WAS ME. MAXIMUS "THE MAD."

AS A RESULT OF THE TERRIGEN BOMB, YOUR POWERS ARE GREATLY DIMINISHED. I WOULDN'T SAY YOU WERE HALF THE MAN YOUR WERE, BUT ANY OF YOUR WIVES MIGHT...

SO...OF COURSE WE'LL HAVE TO HIDE THIS.

SAY, BROTHER... LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, AND I'LL LIE RIGHT THROUGH MY TEETH...

NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF DOCTOR STRANGE.

THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU, DOCTOR.

I CAN TELL.

HOW HARD IS IT TO SEE A BLOOD MOON IN THE NIGHT SKY?

FOR A VERY LONG TIME, I LIKED TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A MAN WITH A FOUNDATION, OF HAVING PURPOSE--NOT SOMEONE DEFINED BY LIVING ON THE PERIPHERY.

SOMEONE CATERING TO THE IMPULSES OF OTHERS.

DIFFERENT, WONG?

YES. VERY MUCH SO.

I WANT YOU TO LEAVE THIS ROOM--BAR THE DOOR--DO NOT ENTER. DO THIS REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU MIGHT HEAR OR WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK IS HAPPENING.

IF I HAVE NOT EMERGED IN THREE DAYS. SUMMON REED RICHARDS...TELL HIM THE ROOM--AND THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM ITSELF--MUST BE DISPATCHED FROM THIS PLANE.

I PLAN TO USE THE BLOOD BIBLE.

MASTER, THE COST IS--

DO IT NOW, WONG. TIME GROWS SHORT...

"AND I AM TIRED OF WATCHING OTHERS MAKE CHOICES OF CONSEQUENCE WHILE I DO NOTHING."

IF I AM TO BE DAMNED BY THESE DECISIONS...

...THEN LET IT BE USING ***ALL THE RESOURCES*** AT THE DISPOSAL OF A SORCERER SUPREME.

FOR I AM NOT A PAWN...

I AM THE DOCTOR.

NECROPOLIS.

THE TYRANT AND HIS HENCHMEN WERE MORE... PRECOCIOUS THAN WE INITIALLY THOUGHT.

SEVERAL OF THE ANTI-MATTER DEVICES HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH. SET TO EXPLODE IF ACTIVATED.

OTHERS WERE RIGGED TO DUMP THE CORE IF THE PROTECTIVE SHELL WAS OPENED...

WE HAD TO GO THROUGH AND CHECK EACH ONE THOROUGHLY.

WHICH IS WHY IT TOOK THIS LONG TO GET TO YOU.

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

DON'T, HOWEVER, EXPECT AN APOLOGY.

OF COURSE.
WHAT MAN WORTH ANYTHING REGRETS DOING WHAT IS NECESSARY?
YOU SUCCEEDED, I ASSUME?
THERE WAS AN INCURSION. YOU MUST HAVE FELT IT.
I DID.
AND RABUM ALAL STILL HEARS MY PRAYERS...
ONCE AGAIN, YOUR WORLD HAS BEEN SPARED...
ONCE AGAIN, BY THE HANDS OF OTHERS AND NOT YOUR OWN.
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO LAST?

I DUNNO... MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY?

MAYBE WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT. DO WHAT WE DO.

SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

SAVE THE WORLD.

SAVE THE WORLDS.

I THINK NOT.

YOU'RE NEARING THE END OF BEING PASSIVE. THIS TIME OF TALKING ABOUT WHAT TO DO IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE...

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, BLACK SWAN...

EVERYTHING HAS A SOLUTION.

EVERYTHING.

AND JUST HOW DID YOU SOLVE THIS INCURSION, REED RICHARDS?

WE DIDN'T HAVE TO.

YOU'RE MAKING MY POINT FOR ME.

ACTUALLY, IT'S INTERESTING...

THEY WERE A MULTI-UNIVERSAL, ANCIENT CIVILIZATION CALLED BUILDERS. WHO IT SEEMED--

HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

THE BUILDERS, YOU SAY...

HOW VERY OMINOUS. THAT IS INDEED SOME THREAT.

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

PERHAPS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL WE-- AND OUR FRIENDS-- HAVE JUST BEEN THROUGH.

SYSTEM-CREATING, UNIVERSAL MIGRANTS. CREATORS AND ENGINEERS...MORE THAN CAPABLE OF DESTROYING WORLDS.

DID YOU NOT FIND IT STRANGE THAT THEY WERE LIMITED IN HOW THEY MOVED THROUGHOUT YOUR UNIVERSE? THAT A RACE SO ADVANCED WAS LIMITED TO TRAVELING IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A STRAIGHT LINE?

IT'S BECAUSE THEIR VESSELS WERE NOT BUILT FOR TRAVELING GREAT DISTANCES OUTSIDE OF THEIR SUPERFLOW.

SEE...THEY INVESTED HEAVILY IN THEIR CONDUIT, AND NOW WITHOUT IT, THEY ARE TRAPPED AND UNABLE TO ELUDE RABUM ALAL-- JUST LIKE YOU, JUST LIKE ME.

TELL ME, STARK...DO I SOUND LIKE I KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT?

IF YOU KNOW, THEN WHAT'S SO DAMN FUNNY?

ARE YOU AWARE THAT THESE BUILDERS ARE CONFINED TO UNDER FIVE THOUSAND REALITIES?

WHO WORRIES ABOUT A KALBI WHEN FACING AN IDIMMU?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT--

"WHO WORRIES ABOUT A DOG WHEN FACING A DEMON?"

YOU'RE DOING WELL, HENRY.

I'M A QUICK STUDY.

AREN'T YOU ALL...SO WHY IS THIS SO HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND?

I UNDERSTAND.

THERE ARE WORSE THINGS OUT THERE.

NO. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING AT ALL...

THERE ARE WORSE THINGS COMING.

"YOU FRET BUILDERS...

"...BUT WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE MAPMAKERS? NOT JUST THEIR SIDERA MARIS...BUT THE MASTERS THEMSELVES.

"WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE BLACK PRIESTS?"

AND WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE SINNU SARRUM?

THE IVORY KINGS?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?

ALL OF THIS...

LIKE CHILDREN... PLAYING.

WHAT YOU JUST WENT THROUGH...IT ONLY HAD THE APPEARANCE OF FINALITY--

--IT LACKED THE EFFECT.

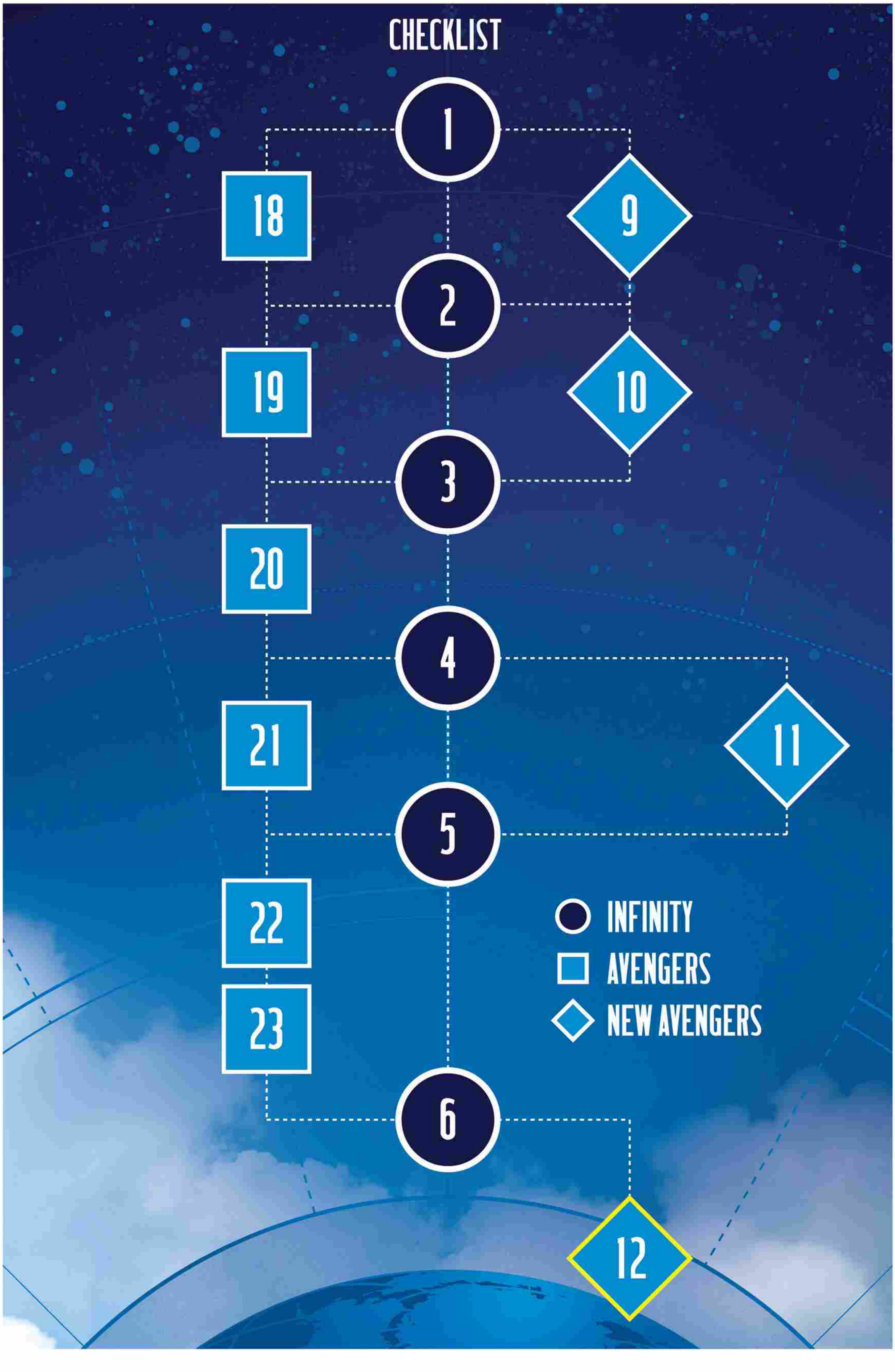
THAT ENDS NOW.

EMPIRES HAVE COLLAPSED. KINGS HAVE FALLEN. MEN HAVE PERISHED.

WORLDS ***HAVE*** ENDED... AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING...

EVERYTHING DIES.

INFINITY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THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

Coulson Lives! And you can find him on ABC Tuesday nights at 8:00 as the linchpin of **MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.**! Unless you've been living on a desert island these past few weeks, you've already heard about how the premiere broke records in terms of its audience! And that's only the tip of the iceberg—you'll be amazed by the surprises the series has in store for future episodes (which is why smarter true believers tune in live)! If you're getting the impression that we're kinda excited by all this, give yourself a gold star—it's one more step toward Marvel's domination of the entire globe! Don't Yield, Back S.H.I.E.L.D.!

Just when you thought things couldn't get worse for the **UNCANNY AVENGERS**, it's time to begin "RAGNAROK NOW!," the second movement of our big Apocalypse Twins saga! And joining writer Rick Remender in torturing both mutant and non-mutant Avenger alike is artist Steve McNiven (whom you may remember from such almost-forgotten stories as "Old Man Logan," "Brand New Day" and CIVIL WAR)! Starting things off with a bang in this month's issue #14, you won't believe the shocking twists and turns—not to mention which characters don't make it to the end of the issue in one piece! We've maxed out the crazy factor here, so don't be caught off-guard! Absolutely no one will be seated without $3.99!

Well, the votes have been tallied, and we're ready to share the results of our recent Favorite Avengers poll. Ever since we posted the mid-term rankings a while back, there's been a swell of activity— specifically, the members of the "Carol Corps" of CAPTAIN MARVEL fans got the vote out to support their faves!

So here's the tale of the tape:

FAVORITE AVENGERS SERIES –
In a surprise upset, AVENGERS ASSEMBLE took it by a wide margin. NEW AVENGERS was the runner-up!

FAVORITE AVENGERS WRITER –
– Kelly Sue DeConnick, with Jonathan Hickman as the number two.

FAVORITE AVENGERS PENCILER –
Stefano Caselli, with the second spot split between John Cassaday, Steve Epting, Dustin Weaver and Jamie McKelvie

FAVORITE AVENGERS INKER –
Rick Magyar

FAVORITE AVENGERS COLORIST –
Jordie Bellaire

FAVORITE AVENGERS LETTERER –
A three-way draw between Cory Petit, Joe Caramagna and Clayton Cowles, all of Virtual Calligraphy

We're not sure what this tells us (other than not to mess with those CAPTAIN MARVEL fans), but congratulations to all of the winners!

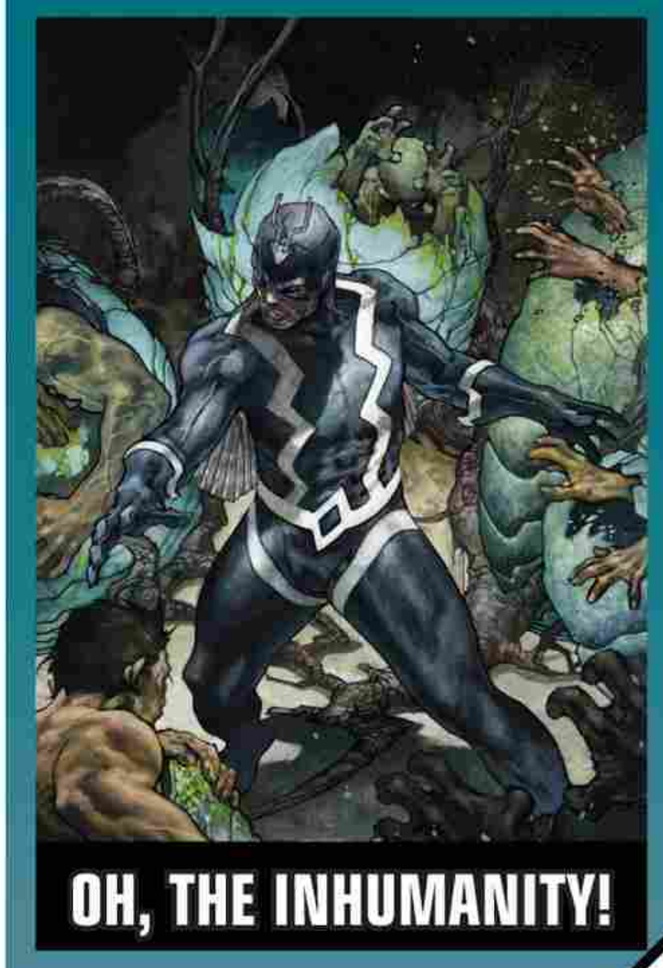
And what would this page be without a Letter of the Month?

Hello there, my name is Chris Countryman. I'm a 31yr old medically retired Army Veteran. Growing up, if I wasn't outside playing basketball or football I was inside reading my Marvel comics all the time. While other kids joined gangs over street names and colors I was all about my Marvel heroes! When we were attacked on 09\11, I joined the Army to go and fight for this country I love. It was very hard to get comics during my 1st tour, but on my 2nd tour in Iraq I was better prepared. Well, 8 months in I was hit by a roadside bomb that smashed our armored pretty bad. Thankfully my crew came away with just bumps and bruises but I unfortunately received a traumatic brain injury. I'm not telling my story for sympathy because I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat. My point is that there's a chance I'm recovering a lot better and keeping my brain cells a lot more active because I'm constantly using and stimulating those brain cells. So on behalf of my family I'd like to say thank you all for all the great work.

Chris Countryman

And thank you for your service, Chris!

NEXT ISSUE:



AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #23
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE BATTLE FOR EARTH MOVES PLANETSIDE!

AVENGERS A.I. #6
THE MAN BEHIND THE IRON (MAN) MASK REVEALED!

AVENGERS ARENA #17
BOSS LEVEL! IT'S AN ALL-OUT BATTLE ROYALE (TO COIN A PHRASE)!

AVENGERS ARENA #18
SERIES FINALE! WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #21
AS INFINITY LEADS TO INHUMANITY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SPIDER-GIRL?

INFINITY #6
THE MEGA-SIZED CONCLUSION AS THE AVENGERS BATTLE THANOS FOR THE EARTH!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #3
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE RETURN OF ADAM, THE BLUE MARVEL!

NEW AVENGERS #12
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR IS FELT!

SECRET AVENGERS #11
INFINITY TIE-IN! ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE FOR EARTH!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #14
RAGNAROK NOW! STEVE MCNIVEN! WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED?

YOUNG AVENGERS #12
THE YOUNG AVENGERS VS. THE YOUNG AVENGERS!

A + X #14
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS CONTINUE THEIR QUEST, AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN BONDS WITH MAGNETO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #2

ZONE